

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for provisioning a circuit via a plurality of network elements comprising:

(a) graphically representing said network elements within a network as a plurality of network element objects;

(b) graphically representing a communications link between two network elements as a bridge object disposed between two of said plurality of network element objects;

(c) graphically representing the status of cross-connection links within said network elements as ~~an icon~~ respective icons displayed on ~~each of said linked~~ said respective network element objects; and

(d) selecting at least some of said network element objects and bridge objects to form a graphical representation of the circuit being provisioned; wherein said selected network element objects are selected by a user, and comprise a start node, an end node and at least one intermediate node between the start and end nodes.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein for each of the network element objects the icon is selected from the group consisting of a set of colors, a set of images, shapes, symbols, objects, and text.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the icon is~~ each icon uses a set of colors and each color of said set corresponds to a particular connection state and cross-connection state within each network element.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the set of colors consists of a list of seven colors.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each bridge object has at least one communications link, each communications link comprising at least one channel for establishing a communication path between two of the plurality of network elements.

6. (currently amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) for use in provisioning a circuit, comprising:

a plurality of network element objects, each network element object representing a respective network element within a network and having ~~[[a]]~~ displayed thereon an associated status icon associated with the network element object representing the status of cross-connections links within said network element;

a plurality of bridge objects, each bridge object representing a respective communications ~~channel within the network~~ link between two of said network elements;

~~wherein:~~ wherein, in response to a user selection of at least some network element objects, the network elements corresponding to the selected network objects are selected for use in provisioning the circuit; ~~and each corresponding status icon displays information as to the status of a communications channel associated with the respective selected network element;~~

wherein said selected network elements comprise a start node, an end node and at least one intermediate node between the start and end nodes.

7. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 6, wherein each bridge object further comprises at least one communications link object, each communications link object comprising at least one channel object, each channel object representing ~~the~~ a communication channel.

8. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 6, wherein for each of the network element objects the status icon is selected from the group consisting of colors, shapes, symbols, objects and text.

9. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 8, wherein the colors represent the status of ~~a communications channel between any two network elements~~ the cross-connection links within the respective network elements for which the cross-connection status icons are displayed.
10. (original) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a first color represents a cross-connection locally in a management system database not yet set to a network element.
11. (original) The GUI of claim 10, wherein said first color is black.
12. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a second color represents an active cross-connection created by craft terminal interface/element management system CIT/EMS.
13. (original) The GUI of color 12, wherein said second color is green.
14. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a third color represents a pending ~~communications channel~~ cross-connection.
15. (original) The GUI of claim 14, wherein said third color is gray.
16. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a fourth color represents a partial ~~communications channel~~ cross-connection state.
17. (original) The GUI of claim 16, wherein said fourth color is red.
18. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a fifth color represents an improper disconnect state of the ~~communications channel~~ cross-connection.
19. (original) The GUI of claim 18, wherein said fifth color is orange.

20. (currently amended) The GUI of claim 9, wherein a sixth color represents an “intent to delete” state of the ~~communications channel~~ cross-connection.

21. (original) The GUI of claim 20, wherein said sixth color is magenta.